

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 16, 2004. Claims 1, 3-9, 10-17, and 19-25 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 9, 17, and 25 are in independent form. Claims 2, 10, and 18 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter, and will not be mentioned further. Claims 1, 3, 9, 11, 17, 19, and 25 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement, for lack of support in the specification for the terms of “second print” and “second printing” in Claims 1, 9, and 17.

These claims have been amended to remove the terms “second print” and “second printing”. It is believed that the rejection under Section 112, first paragraph, has been obviated, and its withdrawal is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,469,796 (*Leiman et al.*), in view of HP Deskjet 880C (*HP*).

As shown above, Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 9, 17, and 25 in terms that more clearly define what they regard as their invention. Applicants submit that these amended independent claims, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 1 is an information processing apparatus for generating printing data to be transmitted to a printing apparatus. The information processing apparatus includes spool means, setting-information obtaining

means, display control means, setting edit means, and print job generation means. The spool means temporarily stores data to be printed in an intermediate-code format with print setting information designated via a user interface by a printer driver. The data to be printed is generated by an application program and the spool means stores a plurality of print jobs. The setting-information obtaining means obtains the print setting information from the data temporarily stored in the spool means in the intermediate-code format. The display control means controls to display a user interface for editing print setting information of a print job generated by combining the plurality of print jobs stored in the spool means. The setting edit means relates the print setting information of the print job generated by combining the plurality of print jobs and edited by the user interface to the data of the plurality of print jobs stored in the intermediate-code format and for temporarily storing them. The print job generation means generates a combined print job described in a page description language based on the data of the plurality of print jobs stored in the spool means in the intermediate-code format and the edited print setting information. The display control means controls to restrict print setting items which cannot be edited as part of the combined job and to display the other print setting items as available print setting items which can be edited as part of the combined job. A default value of the available print setting items is a display value of the print setting information which can be edited.

Among important features of Claim 1 are display control means displaying a user interface for editing print setting information of a print job generated by combining the plurality of print jobs stored in the spool means, and the setting edit means relates the print setting information of the print job generated by combining the plurality of print jobs and edited by the user interface to the data of the plurality of print jobs stored in the

intermediate-code format and for temporarily storing them. The print job generation means generates a combined print job described in a page description language based on the data of the plurality of print jobs stored in the spool means in the intermediate-code format and the edited print setting information. Further, the display control means controls to restrict print setting items which cannot be edited as part of the combined job and to display the other print setting items as available print setting items which can be edited as part of the combined job, and a default value of the available print setting items is a display value of the print setting information which can be edited. By virtue of these features, a user may easily edit the print settings when combining a plurality of print jobs into one print job.

As discussed previously, *Leiman et al.* relates to open printing systems automatically routing print jobs from different types of source computers to different types of printers without the source computers selecting the printers for each print job. In the *Leiman et al.* system, the print job has already been created by a client. In *Leiman et al.* the server spool is coupled to the print server, and prior to sending a print job from the print server to an output manager, data in the print jobs may be combined into one print job (column 2, lines 10 and 11). However, nothing has been found in *Leiman et al.* that would teach or suggest display control means displaying a user interface for editing print setting information of a print job generated by combining the plurality of print jobs stored in the spool means, the setting edit means relating the print setting information of the print job generated by combining the plurality of print jobs and edited by the user interface to the data of the plurality of print jobs stored in the intermediate-code format and for temporarily storing them, the print job generation means generating a combined print job described in a page description language based on the data of the plurality of print jobs stored in the spool

means in the intermediate-code format and the edited print setting information, where the display control means controls to restrict print setting items which cannot be edited as part of the combined job and to display the other print setting items as available print setting items which can be edited as part of the combined job, and a default value of the available print setting items is a display value of the print setting information which can be edited, as recited in Claim 1.

HP is a user's guide for HP DeskJet printers, and provides general information about the operation of such printers. However, nothing has been found in *HP* that would remedy the deficiencies of *Leiman et al.*, and in particular nothing has been found in *HP* that would teach or suggest display control means displaying a user interface for editing print setting information of a print job generated by combining the plurality of print jobs stored in the spool means, the setting edit means relating the print setting information of the print job generated by combining the plurality of print jobs and edited by the user interface to the data of the plurality of print jobs stored in the intermediate-code format and for temporarily storing them, the print job generation means generating a combined print job described in a page description language based on the data of the plurality of print jobs stored in the spool means in the intermediate-code format and the edited print setting information, where the display control means controls to restrict print setting items which cannot be edited as part of the combined job and to display the other print setting items as available print setting items which can be edited as part of the combined job, and a default value of the available print setting items is a display value of the print setting information which can be edited, as recited in Claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants believe that Claim 1 is patentable over the cited prior art.

Independent Claims 9, 17, and 25 are method, computer-executable program, and storage medium claims, respectively, corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Final Action, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Samuel P. Dine", is written over a horizontal line.

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